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Bowling Green State University

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Tuesday

Nov. 28, 2006

Volume 101, Issue 64
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Free college comes to those in right place

Kalamazoo, Mich. residents with high GPAs get free college | **Page 3**

Students and parents clash? No way!

Freedom of college can lead to head-butting at home over holidays | **Page 3**

Religious leaders protest racial profiling

Muslims, Jews and Christians pray for an end to profiling at airports | **Page 5**

Hamblet's shot at buzzer beats South Alabama

Ryne Hamblet hit a shot as time expired to lead BG to a win Saturday | **Page 7**

Loss to Toledo ends difficult year for BGSU

The BG football team struggled down the stretch, losing their last five | **Page 7**



Iraq calls for Iranian help

Fledgling nation feels Iran's role in the Middle East could lead to peace between Sunnis and Shias | **Page 11**

Pope to meet Turkish PM

Visit seems to signal change in controversial move | **Page 11**

What's your opinion on those becoming violent over PS3?



BRIAN CARLSON, Senior, Creative Writing

"That's probably the most exercise those people have had all year." | **Page 4**



TODAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 62, Low: 50



TOMORROW
PM Showers
High: 63, Low: 54

Students STAND together

University students form a group to raise awareness of genocide in Sudan

By **Megan Schmidt**
Senior Reporter

The deadly clashes between a brutal government-sponsored militia and the civilians of Darfur, Sudan have rarely made front page news in the U.S. since the conflict broke out in 2003.

But a group of University students want to change that

by forming a local chapter of Students Taking Action Now: Darfur, a national organization seeking to raise awareness of genocide in western Sudan through political activism.

BGSU's chapter of STAND will hold its first general meeting at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Olscamp 213.

Nick Subtirelu, president of STAND, said he started the chap-

ter because not enough students understand the extent of the devastation that has occurred in Darfur — if they know anything about it at all.

"A lot of people there have been displaced, and there have been a huge number of rapes," Subtirelu said. "But here in the U.S., it's not headline news. It's not the latest sex scandal in

Congress. But it's there."

According to the STAND Web site, genocide in Darfur has claimed the lives of 400,000 people since February 2003, when the Sudanese government recruited a group called the janjaweed to halt a civilian uprising in Darfur, a region in Sudan about the size of Texas. Darfurians had formed rebel groups to voice opposition

to the Sudanese government in the capital of Khartoum for keeping them in poverty. But the janjaweed quickly responded by using rape, starvation and murder to silence the rebel groups.

Several peace agreements since then have failed to bring a

See **STAND** | Page 2

DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY



SHAWNDA HESS | THE BG NEWS

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: Lauren Payden does a solo while Lexi Stilianos, Elise Hanson, Lauren Thurman, and Krystle Colon perform as a group. The piece was choreographed by Molly Tressler and is one of many that will be performed as part of the Footfalls dance concert on December 8 and 9.

Internet makes it easy to find a date, romance

By **Mike Robinson**
Reporter

Since online dating services began, many people have turned to them as a way to find dates. As subscriptions to these Web sites continue to rise, the dating world is changing by the second.

Web sites such as E-Harmony.com, AmericanSingles.com and Match.com offer Internet users a chance to meet others looking for a date.

Many of these Web sites offer services to those in Northwest Ohio.

According to Match.com, there are more than 5,500

members subscribed to the site in the Toledo area. Sixty percent of those members are male.

Forty-five percent of Match.com members in the Toledo area report they are between the ages of 25 and 39.

Users of these Web sites create a member profile, in which they list personality traits and information. They are then linked to other users based on their profile.

Based on their location, users are grouped together and members can view profiles of others in their area.

But many BGSU students

Noe to reimburse the state

By **John Seewer**
The Associated Press



Tom Noe
Former fundraiser for GOP

TOLEDO, Ohio — A former GOP fundraiser who embezzled from a state investment in rare coins must repay the state \$13.7 million, a judge ruled yesterday.

Tom Noe, 52, was sentenced last week to 18 years in prison in a scandal that contributed to the Republican Party's loss of the governor's office. Noe also owes the state nearly \$3 million for the cost of the investigation, Lucas County Judge Thomas Osowik said.

Some of the money Noe owes could come from the sale of artwork, autographs and other collectibles seized from Noe's coin business. Part will come from his shares of a Florida coin

business, which has a value of at least \$1 million and might be worth up to \$5 million.

The scandal surrounding the \$50 million investment that Noe managed for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation culminated this month with Democrats winning a U.S. Senate seat and four of five key statewide offices after 12 years of Republican rule.

Less than a week after the election, Noe was convicted of

See **NOE** | Page 2

Athletics sets new goals

By **Kelly Day**
Senior Reporter

Serving less than a semester as Bowling Green State University's director of athletics, Greg Christopher has already set several goals for changes within the athletic department.

Christopher spoke about these goals to the Undergraduate Student Government last night.

He stressed the importance of the athletic department's reputation, which he said, represents the whole University.

"Athletics is a terrific front porch for an institution," he said. "It's very incumbent on our part to run athletics the right way."

Christopher came to the University after serving as the associate athletic director of external relations at Purdue University, where he also worked with marketing and promotions.

One of his primary concerns, he told USG, is the BGSU logo, which has changed frequently within the last three years.

"What bothers me is the inconsistency," he said. "There's three, four, or maybe five logos floating around."

He said the purpose of the change was to make the logo more identifiable. The old logo, which is a simple orange symbol intended to represent a falcon, Christopher said, wasn't recognizable as a falcon.

Nate Wiedenhoft, student welfare chair, said he personally prefers the traditional logo, but he said the most important thing is for the University to decide on one logo and stay with it.

Wiedenhoft used the McDonald's golden arch as an example of how effective a logo can be and said it was important for BGSU to have a consistent logo so more people will become familiar with the University.

"It's just something to identify us as an institution," he said.

Another concern of Christopher's was BGSU's compliance with Title IX.

"Our population of student athletes need to mirror the population of our student body," he said.

Christopher said females make up 65 percent of the student body but only 55 percent of the student athletes.

Christopher said he would like to discuss with female athletes from high schools within a 100-mile radius of BGSU to see which sport they would like to see added to the athletic department.

Though there are things that need changed, Christopher said he has been very impressed with BGSU athletes and fans.

He thanked students for making it out to the BG vs. Miami football game on Nov. 15, despite cold and rainy weather. He also said the athletic department is proud to see

See **USG** | Page 2



KEITH SRACOCIC | AP PHOTO

Officials investigate cause of explosion

DESTRUCTION: Firefighters spray one of the three houses damaged in an explosion that leveled one house and injured three people in New Castle, Pa., yesterday. Officials said they were investigating the possibility that natural gas caused the blast outside of Pittsburgh.

NOE

From Page 1

theft, corrupt activity, money laundering, forgery and tampering with records.

Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro is seeking to restart a civil lawsuit against Noe to try to recover money that he says Noe took from the agency lost out on, Anthony said. "That's another figure that hasn't been determined," he said.

The civil lawsuit most likely will attempt to recover potential profits the agency lost out on, Anthony said. "That's another figure that hasn't been determined," he said.

The lawsuit also will help determine where any of the money will go, assistant Lucas County prosecutor John Weglian said.

Prosecutors said they don't know whether Noe has any other personal assets that can be seized and turned over to the state.

The company selling off the coin funds could bring in about \$56 million — more than the state's original \$50 million investment — once all sales are finished next year, said, Bill Brandt, president of Chicago-based Development Specialists Inc.

So far, about \$42 million of the investment has been recovered. Any surplus beyond the original investment would count toward the amount the judge ordered Noe to pay the state.

The judge yesterday decided against ruling that Noe must give up his home in the Florida Keys because he said there was no evidence that the state's money was used to buy the house. The \$5 million waterfront home is in Noe's wife's name.

Also yesterday, Noe's former right-hand man pleaded guilty to tampering with records. Prosecutors agreed to drop a charge of engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity against Timothy LaPointe, who was once Noe's close friend.

LaPointe, who was in charge of daily operations at Noe's coin business, testified during Noe's trial that he borrowed rare coins and faked records with the approval of his boss.

Beginning in 1998, the workers' comp bureau gave Noe \$25 million to invest in rare coins, followed by another \$25 million in 2001.

Prosecutors accused Noe of spending money from the coin fund on his business and other luxury items.

Prosecutors have not directly said whether Noe used any of the state's money to make campaign contributions. But after Noe's sentencing last week, Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien said, "You can make those inferences."

Noe earlier this year was sentenced to serve two years and three months in federal prison after pleading guilty earlier to illegally funneling \$45,000 to President Bush's re-election campaign. He will serve that sentence before his state prison term.

Noe gave more than \$105,000

to Republicans, including Bush and Gov. Bob Taft in 2004.

After the state's began investigating Noe in 2005, Taft disclosed that he failed to report golf outings and other gifts. He then pleaded no contest to ethics charges. Four of his former aides pleaded no contest to similar charges.

NOE TIES TO BGSU:

1991: Noe was appointed by then Governor George Voinovich to the University's Board of Trustees. His appointment was questioned by some who believed he was given the position because of his success with political fundraising.

1995: Noe resigned from the board halfway into his term to fill a vacant seat on the Ohio Board of Regents, which oversees Ohio's public colleges and universities.

1995: Noe's wife, Bernadette, filed a \$9 million lawsuit against the University. She claimed then University President Paul Olscamp, University attorney Nancy Footer and Affirmative Action Director Marshall Rose conspired to prevent a sexual harassment investigation. All were found innocent.

1996: Olscamp, still University president, wrote an affidavit causing Tom Noe to testify in an immunity hearing regarding the hiring of Bernadette as BGSU athletic fundraiser. Olscamp believed Noe had used his position of power on the Board of Trustees to get Bernadette hired.

STAND

From Page 1

resolution, and the number of displaced Darfur civilians has reached 2.5 million.

Subtirelu said one role of STAND is to push the U.N. or the African Union to send a peacekeeping force to Darfur, but there are other ways the group will work to fight genocide.

He said STAND also focuses on political action, such as calling U.S. senators and President Bush to show citizens are concerned about Darfur, and holding fundraisers where 100 percent of proceeds are donated to organizations like UNICEF and the Genocide Intervention Network. Subtirelu hopes to conduct similar activities with BGSU's chapter of STAND next semester.

Sarah Stevenson, public relations chair for BGSU's STAND, said the organization will collaborate with other politically-active student organizations on some of these activities to raise awareness across the University. The goal, she said, is to open students' eyes to world strife and teach them they can do something about it.

"It's not that campus issues aren't important, but it's so easy to get caught up in your life as a student here," Stevenson said. "This is an issue where you can really make a difference."

Neil Englehart, political science professor and STAND's advisor, said he was impressed when Subtirelu and several other students approached him about starting the group.

"I was heartened that they wanted to form it on their own initiative," Englehart said, since many Americans — and thus, many students — "don't have much interest or knowledge of Africa, even though the information is out there."

But Englehart and Subtirelu said they're sure BGSU has enough students who do know and care about Darfur to make the organization successful — and even more who will come to care about it through the education STAND will provide. "People shouldn't feel ashamed if they don't know about what's happening in Darfur yet," Subtirelu said. "It's only when you do know about it and you don't do anything — then you should feel ashamed."

ABOUT DARFUR:

- Location: Western region of Sudan, in northern Africa
- Population: 6-7 million (before conflict began in 2003)
- Ethnic make-up: 60-65 percent African, 35-40 percent Arab, with 40 to 80 individual ethnic groups
- Most common language: Arabic

Since conflict broke out in February 2003:

- 400,000 Darfurians murdered
- 200,000 fled to neighboring country of Chad
- 2.5 million internally displaced within Sudan
- 10,000 continue to die each month
- Most common causes of death: violence, malnutrition

BLOTTER

THURSDAY

7:33 a.m. Three vehicles parked on South Church Street reported broken into overnight. Digital camera, valued at \$300, reported missing.
11:38 p.m. Orion Akasha Sheldon, 19, of Redford, Mich., arrested for drug abuse instruments in a West Gypsy Lane Road parking lot. She was listed as a missing person in Ann Arbor. Terrance Marshel Jones, 20, of Detroit, was also arrested for drug abuse instruments, which included heroin needles and a "cooking spoon." They were found asleep in a vehicle behind Wal-Mart.

FRIDAY

12:10 p.m. Unknown subject reported to have punched a hole through the driver's side window of a vehicle on South Prospect Street, causing \$400 in damage.
11:39 p.m. Ronald R. Rolf, 24, of Bowling Green, arrested for disorderly conduct at an East Wooster Street bar. He was found passed out near the bar and was unable to stand on his own.

SATURDAY

1:17 a.m. Unknown subject reported to be banging on doors on Klotz Road. Police were unable to locate him.
2:21 a.m. Ryan A. Martinez, 20, of Rising Sun, Ohio, and Grant E. Nowak, 20, of Fremont, Ohio, arrested for underage under the influence of alcohol at Clough and Summit streets.
3:22 a.m. Jacob D. Smith, 21, of Bowling Green, arrested for three counts of criminal damaging after he was seen smashing windows of vehicles on West Merry Street.
5:42 a.m. Third Street resident reported hearing a noise downstairs and finding a male in the downstairs area of his apartment complex. The resident chased the subject out of the apartment and police were unable to locate anyone with his description.
9:20 a.m. Stereo reported stolen from a car parked at a Colony Lane apartment complex. A witness saw two males take the stereo from the unlocked car and run toward Wal-Mart.

9:38 a.m. Vehicle reported damaged on North Summit Street.
6:21 p.m. Items reported missing from a house on South Prospect Street.
11:07 p.m. Angela M. Sifuentes, 22, of McClure, Ohio, arrested for open container in a vehicle in a South Main Street parking lot.
11:41 p.m. Juvenile attempted to use his older brother's ID to get into a North Main Street bar. When he was refused entry, he ran away. The case was forwarded to the juvenile prosecutor.

SUNDAY

2:17 a.m. Window reported smashed out of a vehicle on North Prospect Street, causing estimated \$200 in damage.
2:25 a.m. John D. Broska Jr., 22, of Bowling Green, arrested for urinating in public on East Wooster Street.
2:52 a.m. Fight reported at an East Wooster Street gas station. All parties were referred to the city prosecutor.
1:11 p.m. Window of car parked on North Prospect Street reported broken out overnight.
1:27 p.m. Satellite stereo receiver, \$100 value, reported stolen from a vehicle parked on Carol Road.
3:54 p.m. Two subjects smoking marijuana outside the Rec. police found on one.
4:08 p.m. Graffiti on the outside North East corner of the Rec Center.
6:41 p.m. Theft was reported in Rogers.
8:05 p.m. Stereo and speakers, \$150 value, reported stolen from a vehicle on East Napoleon Road.
9:14 p.m. Sally O. Schick, 32, of Bowling Green, arrested on two counts of domestic violence after striking and threatening her mother. She is being held at the Wood County Justice Center without bond.
11:46 p.m. Strong odor of marijuana on the 5th floor of Founders.

DATING

From Page 1

aren't interested in the online dating and advice world.

Liz Conn, a University senior, said she would never use an online dating and advice service.

"I think these Web sites are pretty lame," Conn said.

In addition to assisting people in search of a date, many of these Web sites also offer dating advice to their subscribers.

Most of these Web sites offer subscribers a deal that lets them create a profile for free. If the user continues to use the site, monthly plans are available and payments must be made to the company.

Eharmony.com lists its one-month program at \$59.95.

University junior Sarah Rostar said she will not use an online dating service because she fears something bad could happen.

"I personally would never use an online dating service because I'm afraid of online predators," Rostar said. "But for people who may not have a lot of self confidence in approaching someone, this may be a good way for them to find a date."

University sophomore Chris Messer feels that online dating can be a useful tactic for some single people.

"I believe online dating can be a good thing for certain people who may be socially awkward," Messer said. "Its flaws are no different from any sort of dating, but you just have to be careful about the kind of people you meet."

USG

From Page 1

its athletes achieving in academics, something he said isn't found at every university.

At the meeting, USG also reviewed legislation presented by Johnnie Lewis, the internal affairs chair.

The purpose of the legislation was to redefine the position of the USG Vice President, a position currently held by Kristin Kulbis.

The legislation's purpose was to

outline more specific duties for the vice president position.

"My overall duty is to examine the effectiveness and efficiency of [USG]," Lewis said.

The legislation, however, was not approved by the senate.

Kulbis said she was pleased by the senate's decision.

"My basic duty is to help out Bernard," she said. "Once we start putting in too many descriptions it's going to get confusing."

Due to no pressing issues, USG will not hold a general assembly meeting next week.

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Events:
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Miracle Family Profile
Promo Shirts for Sale
New DM Merchandise for Sale

Bowen Thompson Union Ballroom
November 29th at 9:15

'Promise' allows some residents free college

By Jamaal Abdul-Alim
U-Wire

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — Last year, when she was a senior at Loy Norrix High School, Sharda Nicole Smith didn't know if college was in the cards.

Today, she's a freshman at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, where the daily routine requires so much walking across campus that she sports athletic shoes with dress slacks. She's not trying to make a fashion statement.

"Walking up hills ain't no joke, man," Smith said during a break after her psychology class while seated at a table inside Bronco Hall, a cluster of restaurants inside the university commons.

Neither is paying for college, something Smith doesn't have to worry about thanks to the Kalamazoo Promise.

Smith, who works at a pizza parlor, said she had been thinking about attending Kalamazoo Valley Community College, a vocational school comparable to Milwaukee Area Technical College. But when the Kalamazoo Promise was announced last fall, she opted for state-run Western Michigan.

"It ain't nothing wrong with KVCC, but I'm the first one in my family to go to a university," said Smith, whose father makes tablecloths at an area company and whose mother is a stay-at-home mom. "I was like, 'Why not?'"



KRYSTYNA WENTZ-GRAFF | MCT

EARNING THEIR WAY: Andre Hedl, left, and his brother Vernon Daniels work on word games together in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The family moved to the city to take advantage of the Kalamazoo Promise plan which will fund college educations for students who graduate from one of the city's public schools with a high enough GPA.

Now she is among the first wave of students to take advantage of the promise.

Of the 502 students who graduated last spring from the public high schools in Kalamazoo, 408 were eligible for the promise, and 320 took advantage of it. Seventy percent attend Western Michigan or Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

The first report on the students' academic performance at college is due in January. A more comprehensive perfor-

mance audit is expected at the end of the spring semester.

Because the promise is for all Kalamazoo residents, not just those with a certain income or socioeconomic background, there's no way to tell who's attending Western Michigan with promise money and who is not.

But that doesn't stop students from inquiring. Smith says the question usually comes up when students find out she graduated from high school in Kalamazoo.

No one says anything untoward, but Smith sometimes gets the sense that her presence on campus is resented because she's not paying for school.

"They look at you different, like, 'Oh, she's just here because she got a free scholarship,'" said Smith, who is exploring different career options, including the job of "animal cop" like those featured on the Animal Planet network.

"I'm like, 'I'm just here learning like you are.'"

Students' new found freedoms can clash with parents' rules

By Cassandra Spratling
MCT

DETROIT — While home during a break from North Carolina A&T, where she's a sophomore, Rickelle Winton casually mentioned to her mom that she was having a friend over.

They planned to watch TV in Rickelle's bedroom.

"No way," said her mom. Rickelle's friend is a guy.

"I told her I didn't think that was fair because I have boys in my room in my dorm," says Rickelle, who attends the college in Greensboro, N.C.

Dorm's one thing: home's another, her mother, Doreen Odom of Detroit, told her.

Parents and their children home for the holidays are bound to have similar discussions as college students accustomed to living by their own rules return home to live by their parents' rules over the winter break.

"At school, you could come home at 4 o'clock in the morning and she'd have no idea," says Rachel Kay, 19, a University of Michigan sophomore, referring to her mother, Janice Kay, 50, of West Bloomfield, Mich. "It is a frustrating thing when you're used to being on your own, but it's understandable because she's my mom and she worries."

The holiday season will be a happier time for parents and students if they talk about and agree on rules, curfews and plans for the holidays.

And the sooner the better.

Curfews are the top concern, say parents, students and college officials.

"When I was in high school my curfew was 1 a.m.," says Rachel. "When I come home from college, she extended it to 2 a.m."

Janice Kay says she understands the frustration, but she needs the peace of mind. "We talked about it and I told her that when she stays with me, she needs to let me know where she is and when she'll be home. If she's not going to make it home by that time, she just needs to call and let me know," says Kay, a speech-language pathologist with the Detroit Public Schools. "I went away to school too, so I understand what it's like to be

"I said, 'Yes, you may be an adult by age. But as long as I'm paying the bills, you're half an adult.'"

Doreen Odom | Parent

away at school and have freedom and come home and have rules."

Doreen Odom, who is in her 40s and an administrator at a community health center, doesn't set a curfew, preferring to let the occasion dictate the time Rickelle should be home. But she says she does expect Rickelle to tell her where she's going, with whom and what time she'll be home — something Rickelle forgot when she first returned home last year.

"When I asked her what time she'd be home, she said, 'Why? Why do you need to know?' And then she told me, 'Nobody tells me what time to come in when I'm at school. I make my own rules. I'm an adult.'"

"I said, 'Yes, you may be an adult by age. But as long as I'm paying the bills, you're half an adult.'"

Rickelle laughs recalling the conversation. "I guess my excuse wasn't cutting it," says Rickelle, who's majoring in chemical engineering.

Brittany Mae Zito, 20, a Michigan State University junior, says students will have a better time at home if they try to look at the situation from their parents' point of view.

"It's really not that big a problem," says Zito, a pre-med major from Clinton Township, Mich., who lives in her own apartment. "They usually want me home by 2, but if I call they're OK."

Curfew is not the only concern, says Cindy Hellman, assistant director of residence life at Michigan State University.

Hellman says when students return to school, she and other staff often hear complaints about living at home again.

"It's everything from how late they can stay out to how late they can sleep in the mornings," Hellman says.

GET A LIFE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Some events taken from events.bgsu.edu

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

BG Book Gala

113 Education Building

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bud Hurlstone Commemorative Exhibition

Willard Wankelman Gallery

2:30-5 p.m.

Iraq For Sale: The War Profiteers

Firelands Room, West Building, Firelands Campus

7:30-9 p.m.

S.T.A.N.D. Meeting

Olscomp 213

8 p.m.

Graduate String Quartet

Bryan Recital Hall, Moore Musical Arts Center

Time off after graduation can sharpen skills

By Andrew Maurer
U-WIRE

TOLEDO, Ohio — Caroline Shipley, a senior majoring in philosophy, is one of many University of Toledo students with big plans for the time between graduating from UT and getting a job or attending graduate school.

"I think that it is really valuable sometimes to look at a big mountain instead of a computer screen," said Shipley. "Sometimes everyone needs a break from the routine of school."

Shipley hopes to spend the summer after her senior year traveling and farming at small organic farms throughout South America.

"For me, it would be a way to live and experience the world and do something important at the same time," she said. "Farming is something that happens across the world. To speak a different language than someone but to be able to communicate by working

together is something I want to experience."

She said that even though organic farming can get a bad rap in the United States, it's taken more seriously in South America and Europe.

"It seems like in the U.S., people think of it as kids just trying to travel for free and pull weeds in exchange, but the idea is that there is really specialized knowledge to be learned at organic farms," she said.

She emphasized that the mixture of travel and education on an organic farming trip would keep some of the educational momentum moving between undergraduate and graduate study.

"I would want to go to farms that have the ability to carry out specialized projects," Shipley said. "I think there's a difference between just growing basic crops like beans and potatoes organically and learning more advanced things about organic farming that you can't do your-

self. Everybody knows that you can grow crops without pesticides, but not everyone can make more exotic things like cultured cabbage, for instance."

Evan Jordan, a senior majoring in art, also wants to use the period after graduation to build on his experience and to prepare for the rigors of graduate school.

"I'm planning on taking a year off before grad school," Jordan said. "One plan is to essentially just use it like another senior year but without schooling. I'd work, save up money and use that year to develop my art portfolio and make the best decision about grad school."

"I can also use that year not to be in school and have an identity as something other than a student for the first time in my life," Jordan added. "I guess after public schooling and then five years of college, education starts to feel stagnant."

Using that extra year might also rejuvenate his motivation for school, he said.

DAILY ADVISING TIP

If the registration system won't let you register for a class, check to see if you have met all the pre-requisites by reading the course description. See your advisor if you still have questions.

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RA Recruitment

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Attend one Information Session* (required)

Monday, Nov. 20 @ 9:15pm

BTSU Theatre

Tuesday, Nov. 28 @ 9:15pm

Harshman Community Room

Wednesday, Nov. 29 @ 12:30pm

Founders Courtyard

Thursday, Nov. 30 @ 8:00pm

Harshman Community Room

Monday, Dec. 4 @ 8:00pm

BTSU Theatre

Thursday, Dec. 7 @ 9:15pm

BTSU Theatre

(Please enter through the Wooster Street doors for the sessions in the Harshman Community Room.)

*Attending an information session is required and is the first stage of the application process.

Questions

Ask your RA!

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OPINION

"Do those nitwits at NBC News think this is going to have the impact of when Walter Cronkite came back in Vietnam and said we can't win..." — NBC Radio talk show host Don Imus, responding to NBC's decision to characterize Iraq as a 'civil war'

Tuesday, November 28, 2006 4

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

What's your opinion on those becoming violent over PS3?



"I think it's absolutely ludicrous to fight over a video game."

AMANDA CLEMENTS, Junior, Theater



"Since it's a big system...first come first serve."

MARK NOFZIGER, Junior, Middle Childhood Education



"I find it a little ridiculous."

ADELLE KRUTSCH, Junior, Math Education



"Video games should not be that important."

MALLORY CLEVINGER, Senior, Education

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Have your own take on today's People On The Street? Or a suggestion for a question? Give us your feedback at bgnews.com.



MARTEL WHITE | BG NEWS ILLUSTRATOR

AMERICAN CONSUMERISM | PART TWO OF THREE

Holiday shopping means quality time



AMANDA HOOVER OPINION EDITOR

The Christmas shopping season has officially begun. While it's true many people have been hoarding away their gifts since early July, the passing of Black Friday signifies the next month will be a veritable cornucopia of holiday deals, gift receipts and free gift-wrapping.

Now, I'm not going to fillet Black Friday and offer it up as yet another example of how our society is sliding down the slippery slope of materialism. This is mostly because I enjoy taking part in the after-Thanksgiving festivities.

According to the Bradenton Herald Today, the average shopper spent about \$360 last Friday.

Now there's no way to know whether they spent that on themselves or on Christmas presents, but today I'm feeling generous and we'll assume the hundreds of dollars went to brightening their loved ones' Christmas morning.

So why did everyone go out at 4 a.m. and brave the crowds, the cold and the mile-long lines?

Because in America, we like our sales. Because Circuit City had DVDs, two for \$8.

And not the crappy movies either, but good ones like "Meet the Parents" and "Meet the Fockers," and oldies like "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and all three "Die Hard" movies.

And because we're lazy.

Wait, lazy? But we all got up at 4 a.m. and drove downtown and waited in line and fought for our parking space and hauled hundreds of pounds of merchandise out to our cars!

It doesn't matter.

The 140 million people estimated by the Chicago Sun-Times to have gone shopping Friday most likely knocked out most of their holiday shopping list in one fell (and very cheap) swoop.

They won't have to spend another day scouring malls for the perfect gifts. At most they'll have to make one more trip to a specific store before Christmas or order something online.

But believe it or not, Black Friday participation actually fell this year.

The HeraldToday.com reported a drop of one million shoppers, despite a 19 percent increase in shopping. This drop was probably caused by the laziest breed of shoppers: internet shoppers.

This year, most of the great deals offered in stores were duplicated in their online counterparts. So instead of getting dressed and taking to the streets,

many consumers only had to roll out of bed and spend a few hours of quality time with their computers and their credit cards.

They got all the deals and probably free shipping straight to their door in inconspicuous packaging, or even wrapping in a holiday-inspired box. Voila, no shopping, no driving, no wrapping.

It's also no fun. Black Friday provides our consumer-driven nation a rare opportunity for some family bonding.

No one wants to face the crowds and the horrendous line alone, so what do they do? They take their daughter, their mother, their sisters, brothers, boyfriends, husbands, etc. And they spend time together.

It might be unconventional, but let's face it: People in this country don't spend enough time with their families. We have our headphones, our personal computers and all the things that allow us to go through life without interacting with other people.

This past Friday, me and my partner in crime spent six hours shopping at a handful of different stores, entertaining one another while we waited in line at Target for 45 minutes so I could buy 99 cent pairs of gloves and socks.

We laughed at the people pushing piled-high carts and yelled at the teenagers making use of their grandparents' handicapped parking sign. And when we were finished we went out to breakfast and talked about life.

OK, maybe not life, but it was substantial.

It was an opportunity for each of us to talk face to face with another human. Not instant messaging, not text messaging and not trying to drive with out cell phones glued to our ears.

This is what we need. It's beyond sad that the only time we get to do this is when K-Mart offers HDTVs at 50 percent off, but still it's a step in the right direction.

Where we run into trouble is when I hear people bragging that they got all their holiday shopping done online. That, unfortunately is the direction we are heading.

When we don't even have to go out and look for our gifts. We order them in bulk and have them shipped directly to the recipient. Merry Christmas. It's just not right.

So I encourage everyone to grab your favorite member of your family (preferably not a person you have to do a lot of shopping for) and take a trip to the mall.

Get your holiday shopping done and spend some quality time with another member of your species.

Send comments to Amanda at hooama@bgsuedu

Materialism blurs true holiday meaning



LAUREN WALTER OPINION COLUMNIST

iPods, movies, laptops, HDTVs, video games—and the list goes on. These are the hot gift items for the holiday season according to Best Buy ads.

And what do they all have in common?

They all distract us from what's really important during this time of year.

We live in a culture which runs rampant with materialism. I don't think I need to explain myself here.

Just look at a typical Sunday newspaper and see why it weighs ten pounds.

The ads are everywhere. Retailers tell us why we have to own the latest electronics and why they are what everyone has on their holiday wish list.

Turn on the TV. What do you see?

Ad after ad after ad will tell you what you "need." Isn't the

holiday season supposed to have a deeper meaning than just the latest gadget or electronic device?

No matter which holiday you're celebrating, this time of year is a time for true charity and generosity, and that's why many of us exchange gifts.

Giving gifts is a kind gesture. But it should not be so much about the gift as it should be about the giver of the gift. The physical gift should be a reflection of what's going on inside the one who gives the gift.

And, when we exchange gifts like iPods, movies or HDTVs, we are defeating that purpose. These electronic and media gadgets aren't in and of themselves bad things, but they're often misused.

Sometimes, they consume more of our time than our relationships with other people; they endorse a sense of isolation.

This time of year should bring people together, and these little electronics often promote individualism.

Do you ever wonder why it's called an "I" pod?

We're living in an imperfect world where people are hurting from loneliness. People are starved for love.

Human beings are meant to be in communion with one another, not isolation.

Just last month, Professor Hugh McKenna, Dean of the Faculty of Life and Health Science at University of Ulster, shared with other health professionals his own observations in working on this particular aspect of psychiatry.

He said he "often saw poor and unstable interpersonal relationships led to mental health problems and also how the development of stable interpersonal relationships have brought people back to mental health."

But you don't need a study to tell you this truth. You can see it in everyday situations.

What is more fulfilling? Staring at a TV for an hour or spending that hour in conversation with someone?

Mother Teresa once said, "Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty." The woman who

dedicated her life to caring for the poorest of the poor in the slums of Calcutta, India, said that the greatest poverty lies not in lack of food or shelter, but in loneliness and lack of love.

And she often pointed to Western culture to prove this point.

In our developed nation, we are often poorer than those in places like Calcutta because we suffer a spiritual, mental and emotional poverty.

So, instead of being engrossed with these new trendy items, why not be more concerned with the people who are right in front of you?

Trust me, I know it's easy to walk into Best Buy and marvel at the crisp clarity of an HDTV, but what's even more amazing is to marvel at how awesome your brother, sister, mom, dad, uncle, aunt or friend is.

Choose gifts that encourage communication and build relationships, but most especially, give the gift of yourself this holiday season.

Send comments to Lauren at walterl@bgsuedu

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THE BG NEWS

HOLLY ABRAMS, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

210 West Hall
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Bowling Green, Ohio 43403 | Phone: (419) 372-6966
E-mail: thenews@bgnews.com
Web site: <http://www.bgnews.com>
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LAREN WEBER, EXECUTIVE EDITOR
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The BG News Submission Policy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are to be fewer than 300 words. These are usually in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS are longer pieces between 400 and 500 words. These are usually also in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area. The maximum number of submissions for columns is two per month.

POLICIES: Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Opinion Page permits. Additional Letters to the Editor or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS as an attachment to thenews@bgnews.com with the subject line marked "Letter to the Editor" or "Guest Column." Only e-mailed letters and columns will be considered for printing. All letters are subject to review for length and clarity before printing.

Opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the view of The BG News.



IN PROTEST: Mahdi Bray, executive director of the Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation, center, leads a prayer at Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport yesterday. The group was among many protesting racial profiling at airports.

Groups speak out against racial profiling at airports

By Leslie Miller
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Imams, ministers and a rabbi staged a "prayer-in" demonstration yesterday at Reagan Washington National Airport and asked an apology from US Airways for barring six Muslims from a Minneapolis to Phoenix flight last week.

The religious leaders called for an end to racial profiling, saying it was unacceptable in America.

Imam Omar Shahin, one of the six imams detained last Monday at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, said they hadn't done anything suspicious.

The imams, who were returning from a religious conference, had prayed on their prayer rugs in the airport before the flight. After they boarded the flight, a passenger passed a note to a

flight attendant. The men were taken off the airplane, handcuffed and questioned.

"It was the worst moment in my life," Shahin said. US Airways Group Inc. spokeswoman Andrea Rader said prayer was never the issue. She said the passenger overheard anti-U.S. statements and the men got up and moved around the airplane.

"We're sorry the imams had a difficult time, but we do think the crews have to make these calls and we think they made the right one," she said.

Yesterday, Shahin and several other Muslims prayed in Terminal A near the US Airways ticket counter. Jewish and Christian clergy also said prayers.

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, four airlines accused of breaking federal anti-discrimination laws

"It was the worst moment in my life"

Omar Shahin | Imam

settled with the government. Transportation Department investigations found the airlines had unlawfully removed passengers because of perceived ethnic or religious backgrounds.

The Transportation Department received a complaint about the US Airways incident yesterday from the Muslim Public Affairs Council, said spokesman Brian Turmail.

"We're going to now look into the matter," Turmail said.

The Homeland Security Department's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties said last week that it was investigating the incident.

Trial over sexual discrimination at Goodyear now at Supreme Court

By Mark Sherman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A former tire plant worker's complaint that she was paid thousands of dollars less than men in the same job made it to the Supreme Court yesterday in a case that could affect pay discrimination claims nationwide.

The justices engaged in a lively but inconclusive debate over how to apply a 180-day deadline for complaining about discriminatory pay decisions under Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Lilly Ledbetter sued Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., claiming that after 19 years at the company's Gadsden, Ala., plant, she was making \$6,000 a year less than the lowest-

"There is no reason to think there is going to be this inequality."

Ruth Bader Ginsburg | Justice

paid man in the same job.

Ledbetter claimed the disparity existed for years and was primarily a result of her gender. A jury agreed, but an appeals court overturned the verdict.

Enforce the statute of limitations strictly and an employee is "condemned to perpetually unequal pay for equal work unless she recognizes and complains about the discrimination within a few short months after it first begins," Kevin Russell, Ledbetter's lawyer, argued to the court.

Each smaller paycheck should

be treated as a new act of discrimination, Russell said.

Allow employees to reach back years to claim discrimination and the deadlines mean nothing, lawyers for Goodyear and the Bush administration said.

"No one at Goodyear took Miss Ledbetter's sex into account during the charge-filing period in deciding what to pay her," said Glen Nager, Goodyear's attorney.

Applying the 180-day deadline to decisions made years ago makes no sense in a situation

See **COURT** | Page 10

Bloomberg upset about weekend shootings, will defer to investigation

By Deepti Hajela
The Associated Press



Michael Bloomberg
Believes excessive force was used in police shooting

NEW YORK — Mayor Michael Bloomberg was "deeply disturbed" by the barrage of gunfire unleashed by officers in a weekend shooting that killed a groom on his wedding day, the mayor said yesterday.

"I can tell you that it is to me unacceptable or inexplicable how you can have 50-odd shots fired, but that's up to the investigation to find out what really happened," Bloomberg said after meeting with community leaders at City Hall.

Bloomberg was joined by Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Rep. Charles Rangel and several other officials at the meeting.

Sharpton called it a "very candid, a very blunt meeting." He said the message to Bloomberg was: "This city must show moral outrage that 50 shots were fired on three unarmed men."

Bloomberg was steadfast in his support for Kelly, who has been denounced by some community leaders over the shooting.

"I think he's the best police commissioner the city has ever had," Bloomberg said. "Nobody takes this more seriously than Commissioner Kelly and I do."

Police fired an estimated 50 rounds at the groom, Sean Bell, 23, and two other unarmed men in a car early Saturday, hours before he was to have married

the mother of his two children.

Five officers were placed on paid administrative leave and stripped of their guns, said Paul Browne, chief spokesman for the NYPD. Police and prosecutors promised a full investigation.

"This warrants an answer," Rangel said as he arrived for the meeting. "Not just to the families of those that were shot and killed but to the people of the city of New York."

On Sunday, several hundred people held a vigil for Bell, some shouting "No justice, no peace!" and demanding Kelly's ouster.

Kelly has said police shot at the car after it drove forward and struck an undercover officer and an unmarked police minivan. The information was based on interviews with witnesses and two officers who did not fire their weapons, he said.

However, Trini Wright, a dancer at the strip club where Bell's bachelor party was held, told the Daily News she was going to a diner with the men and was putting her make-up bag in the trunk of their car when the police minivan appeared.

"The minivan came around the corner and smashed into their car. And they (the police) jumped out shooting," Wright, 28, told the newspaper for yesterday editions. "No 'stop.' No 'freeze.' No nothing."

Kelly had said Saturday it was too early to say whether the shooting was justified. He said it was unclear whether the officers, who were in plain clothes, identified themselves before firing.

Bell's fiancée, Nicole Paultre, made a quiet visit to the site of his shootings before dawn

"The minivan came around the corner and smashed into their car. And they (the police) jumped out shooting."

Trini Wright | Dancer

yesterday, lighting candles clustered around a photograph of the smiling couple with one of their daughters.

The shootings occurred after 4 a.m. Saturday outside the Kalua Cabaret in Queens. Kelly said the confrontation stemmed from an undercover operation by seven officers investigating the club.

Bell was struck twice. Joseph Guzman, 31, was shot at least 11 times, and Trent Benefield, 23, was hit three times. Guzman was in critical condition yesterday and Benefield was stable.

The officers' shots struck the men's car 21 times. They also hit nearby homes and shattered windows at a train station, though no residents were injured.

Police thought one of the men in the car might have had a gun, but investigators found no weapons. It was unclear what prompted police to open fire, Kelly said.

According to Kelly, the groom was involved in a verbal dispute outside the club, and one of his friends referred to a gun.

An undercover officer walked closely behind Bell and his friends as they headed for their car.

See **SHOOTING** | Page 10

Ten killed in fire at elderly home; cause is under investigation

By Marcus Kabel
The Associated Press

ANDERSON, Mo. — An early morning fire broke out in a group home for the elderly and mentally ill yesterday, killing 10 people and injuring two dozen others in a blaze that the governor said was being treated as a crime.

The blaze reduced the privately run Anderson Guest House to a skeleton of cinder blocks and stunned this rural community of about 1,800 people tucked in the Ozark hills of southwest Missouri.

Gov. Matt Blunt said investigators were treating the fire as suspicious.

"We're not saying it is definitely a crime scene, but we are treating it as if it is and trying to determine if the fire was set by somebody who had a nefarious motive," Blunt said.

The home had 32 residents and two employees inside when the fire was reported around 1 a.m. The dead ranged in age from early 20s to elderly. Another 18 people were taken to hospitals, and six were treated at the scene, authorities said.

One of the dead was a worker in the home, and the other nine were residents, Blunt said. Authorities did not plan to release names until relatives were notified.

Officials refused to say how the victims died or whether they had any warning of the flames. The home had fire alarms but no sprinklers.

Asked whether two staff members were enough to look after 32 residents, Blunt said that was up to state health officials.

"Again, it was late at night," the governor said. "That would impact to some degree the amount of care that is necessary."

Neighbor Steven Spears, 47, saw the blaze erupt through security cameras posted outside his home.

"I saw the front door blow

open with fire," Spears said. "I know most of them (the residents). I've talked to all of them at one time or another. It still hasn't hit me."

The home is operated by Joplin River of Life Ministries Inc. Owner Robert Dupont issued a statement expressing sadness and saying all displaced residents were being cared for with the help of local agencies.

See **FIRE** | Page 10

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Republican wins tight race, spurs a recount

By Andrew Welsh-Huggins
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Republican Rep. Deborah Pryce is moving ahead with plans for her next term in Congress after narrowly winning re-election yesterday with a slim margin that will trigger a recount.

"This has been a hard fought battle," Pryce said. "It's been a tough race for both of us."

Pryce led Democratic challenger Mary Jo Kilroy by 1,055 votes in unofficial results after counties in central Ohio's 15th District counted absentee and provisional ballots weeks after Election Day.

Pryce suggested it was time for Kilroy to concede, something Kilroy rejected, saying the results are only another step in the process.

"The Legislature has determined that a race that's this close should be recounted," Kilroy said. "We've been through one count so far, we should take a look at it again."

Pryce actually lost Franklin County, the district's most populous county that announced its totals yesterday. But votes she picked up in the two other counties in the district, Madison and Union, helped her keep her lead. Madison also certified its results yesterday, while Union reported last week.

Kilroy, a Franklin County commissioner, had thought the outstanding ballots in Franklin County, including many from Ohio State University students in Columbus, could sway the election in her favor.

The race was one of a few that had remained unresolved across the country since Election Day, when the Democrats took control of Congress.

Pryce joined fellow GOP incum-

"This has been a hard fought battle, it's been a tough race for both of us."

Deborah Pryce | Republican Rep.



Deborah Pryce
Republican
U.S. House
Representative

elections lawyer representing Kilroy, said it's only logical a recount would examine all ballots, including rejected provisional votes.

"A recount is a second look at everything you looked at on the first go-around," McTigue said.

Pryce's narrow margin of victory was a change from past elections when she easily won her seat, including 2004 when she had 60 percent of the vote in beating Mark Brown for the second time in two elections.

The Franklin County elections board reviewed just under 21,000 provisional ballots, throwing out about 2,600. Most of the uncounted provisionals were cast by people who weren't registered to vote or voted in the wrong precinct, elections director Matt Damschroder said.

Since Franklin County is split between congressional districts, not all of the 2,600 were cast in the Pryce-Kilroy race. The board reviewed 10,347 provisional ballots in that race; the exact number rejected in the race wasn't available yesterday.

Pryce, until recently the No. 4 Republican in Congress, previously accepted victory in the face — one of the season's nastiest — but Kilroy insisted that uncounted provisional and absentee ballots would lean Democratic.

A seven-term incumbent, Pryce had seen her lead in the campaign turn sharply amid the scandal over U.S. Rep. Mark Foley and GOP leaders' handling of lurid messages he had been sending for years to male congressional pages.

bent Rep. Jean Schmidt in winning a post-election victory in Ohio, delivering good news to a troubled state party that lost control of the governorship, long-held congressional seats in the state and three other key statewide offices.

If Pryce's victory holds, Republicans will have an 11-7 edge over Democrats in Ohio's 18-person congressional delegation. Democrats picked up just one seat, the eastern Ohio position left open by the departure of U.S. Rep. Bob Ney who resigned after being convicted on federal corruption charges.

Pryce ended up with 50.2 percent of the vote compared with 49.8 percent for Kilroy in the unofficial totals. Pryce said she's not worried about a recount changing the result.

An automatic recount is triggered if the difference between the two candidates is less than one-half of one percent.

The secretary of state is awaiting the official numbers due today from the counties before taking the next step, spokesman James Lee said. Once the state office verifies a recount is required, it would notify election officials in the district's three counties that they have 10 days to complete the recount.

Lee anticipates sending the notification today, which would mean the recount must be done by Dec. 8. He said state law does not require already rejected provisional ballots to be reviewed.

But Don McTigue, a veteran

Marietta College holds a slice of pristine history in its library files

ZANESVILLE, Ohio (AP)—Deep in a file drawer, a Marietta College librarian may have found history: two deeds dated 1792 with signatures the school believes came from President George Washington and his secretary of state, Thomas Jefferson.

Linda Showalter, an associate in the Special Collections department at the college's Dawes Memorial Library, said when she went through files being shipped off to storage earlier this month, she found what appeared to be the second and third parts of a three-deed transaction.

The college believes the papers are records in the sale of tens of thousands of acres in what is now southeastern Ohio. Showalter told the Zanesville Time Recorder. The Continental Congress sold the land to the Ohio Company, which was formed in 1786 by Revolutionary War veterans who sought to

invest in and settle Ohio lands, she said.

The college was given the first deed in the 1880s by one of the region's founding families and had it restored and framed 10 years ago, said Tom Perry, a Marietta College spokesman. The others were donated in the 1950s by descendants of Ohio Company board members and had been missing, he said.

The school has never had the signatures on the first deed independently verified and doesn't intend to have experts check out the newly discovered documents either because the college doesn't plan to sell them, Perry said. But, given what they know about where the papers came from, officials believe the signatures are from Washington and Jefferson.

"Based on our documentation, we feel that they're a hundred percent authentic," Perry said.

"Based on our documentation, we feel that they're a hundred percent authentic."

Tom Perry | Spokesman

Showalter noted that all three deeds have matching signatures. She speculated that the worn and yellowed pieces of parchment she found in the drawer may have been stashed there in the 1950s by a clueless library volunteer.

Officials are now looking into how much it will cost to preserve the documents, said Doug Anderson, Dawes Memorial Library director.

Marietta, along the Ohio River, is about 47 miles south-east of Zanesville.

Child's death causes concern over foster care system

By Dan Sewell
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — More thorough investigation and better communication among agencies could have prevented the placement of a 3-year-old developmentally disabled boy with the foster parents accused of killing him, according to a state report released yesterday.

"The death of any child is tragic; to die under circumstances alleged in this case is only more so," according to the report by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. "This case beckons reform of Ohio's system to better serve all foster children."

Liz and David Carroll Jr. are accused of leaving Marcus Fiesel alone in a closet for two days, wrapped in a blanket and packing tape. Authorities say the boy was dead when they returned to their home in Clermont County from a family reunion in Kentucky.

The couple reported the boy missing Aug. 15, triggering a massive search for the child who supposedly had wandered off in a public park. The Carrolls were arrested Aug. 28 and have pleaded not guilty to murder charges.

The report, which says the Carrolls were unqualified to care for the boy, details problems in handling his case and the private agency that recommended the Carrolls. It also makes a broad range of recommendations that include increased training and widened background checks for foster parents.

"We cannot create a fail-safe system, but I believe we can create a better system," said Barbara Riley, director of the state department.

State lawmakers have said the report will help in developing reform legislation.

About 10,000 children are in foster care in Ohio. Richard Wexler, executive director of the Virginia-based National Coalition for Child Protection Reform, said authorities should do more to keep children with their birth parents.

"They want to add more requirements, when they're



GLENN HARTONG | AP PHOTO

REMEMBER: A vase of flowers is placed in memory of the 3-year-old disabled boy.

"The death of any child is tragic; to die under circumstances alleged in this case is only more so..."

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

not following the existing requirements," Wexler said. "All this tinkering is sound and fury that ignores the elephant in the room."

The Carrolls were certified to be foster parents through Lifeway for Youth, a private agency that handles placements for a number of counties. Lifeway officials

have said the Carrolls misled them about their backgrounds.

The state report alleges more than a dozen failures by the agency, saying the home study and follow-up visits were inadequate, that the agency didn't check references on the Carrolls and that the agency overbilled the state for training reimbursements.

STATE BRIEFS

BIG NEWS WIRE SOURCES

Man stabs couple in Toledo cemetery

TOLEDO, Ohio — Police have arrested a man in the stabbing of a couple visiting a cemetery.

Derwin White, 44, was charged with felonious assault and aggravated robbery, police said.

Karen and William Prymiz of Millbury were at a grave when police said White robbed them on Saturday. William Prymiz fought back and was stabbed in the shoulder. His wife was cut on her shoulder and head, police said. Both were treated for their injuries, which were not life threatening.

White was arrested Sunday at his home, which is about a block from the Calvary Cemetery.

Ohioan arrested during brawl in N.Y.

ROME, N.Y. — A brawl in the stands at a youth hockey game injured a man and led to the arrests of two women, one from Ohio.

Police said eight to 15 people were involved in the melee during the game between 13- and 14-year-olds Saturday at Kennedy Arena.

Raymond Pink, 52, of Rome, suffered a fractured skull. He was treated at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse and released Sunday.

Christin J. Wilbur, 34, of Stow, Ohio, and Diann M. Williams, 40, of Verona, were arrested, police said. Both women were charged with rioting, a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in jail. They were issued appearance tickets for Rome City Court on Dec. 19.

Rome police said they do not know how the women were connected to the

victim or the teams.

"I'm appalled," Rome Youth Hockey Association president Chip Travis said Sunday. "This is going to give youth hockey, and to some extent youth sports in general, a black eye. I don't want Rome, New York, or Central New York to be an example of how not to act."

The brawl began after the game between the Rome Grizzlies and the Whitesboro Wolfpack.

There had been a fight between players on the ice that resulted in the ejection of two Whitesboro players and one Rome player, said division coordinator Jim Engler.

Engler said the fight started as a dispute between two fans and escalated after people began pushing and shoving.

"This was an off-ice problem that resulted from an on-ice problem," Engler said.

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SIDELINES



FOOTBALL

Two Falcons named first team All-MAC

BG senior defensive end Devon Parks (above) and junior center Kory Lichtensteiger were named first-team All-Mid-American Conference. Senior line-backer Terrel White earned second-team accolades.

OUR CALL

On the way up

Meltdowns: Braylon Edwards goes off on half his team. Michael Vick flips the bird and Tiki Barber calls out coaches for play calling — can't we all just get along?

On the way down

Boogie-downs: The NFL's policy on endzone celebrations has been successful this season, despite some players saying they'd go ahead and do it anyway. Who else misses a drawn out celebration?

The List

As the fantasy football playoffs draw near, it's time to look at this weekend's top five performers:

1. Ravens defense:

They scored 50 points in some leagues, which out-scored numerous fantasy teams.

2. Tony Romo: After 306 yards passing and five touchdowns on Thanksgiving day, Romo (below) has put "Big D" back on the map.

3. Joseph Addai: The rookie had 171 rush yards and four touchdowns. Too bad he still hasn't been worth the first round draft pick.

4. LaDainian

Tomlinson: He may not be the automatic No. 1 this week, but two rushing touchdowns and a passing score land him on the top five once again.

5. Vince Young:

Young is beginning to look like the quarterback the Titans drafted out of college, passing and rushing well.



Hamblet's buzzer-beater lifts Falcons to victory

By Bill Bordewick
Reporter

Ryne Hamblet had only four points in the game against the Jaguars of the University of South Alabama, but his final two points were just enough to give the BG men's basketball team a 65-64 win Saturday at Anderson Arena.

"The original play was to get [Martin] Samarco open for a shot," Hamblet said. "But we couldn't get him open, so I just tried to take it to the rim as far as I could. Then while I was on my back I saw it hanging on the rim and when it went in I just put my arms up."

The Falcons led by as many

"The original play was to get [Martin] Samarco open for a shot. But we couldn't get him open, so I just tried to take it to the rim as far as I could."

Ryne Hamblet | BG Basketball

as 10 points in the first half but could not put the Jaguars away. The score at halftime was 30-29 in favor of the Falcons.

BG pushed the lead to 47-39 with just under 13 minutes to go in the game. The run was sparked by back-to-back 3-pointers by Dusan Radivojevic and Darryl Clements.

The Jaguars responded by

scoring the next 10 points to give USA a 49-47 advantage. South Alabama built its lead to four — the biggest of the game for the Jaguars — at the 4:19 minute mark after a lay-up by Kenny Hooks.

"It was a game of runs — basketball is a lot like that," said South Alabama coach John Pelphrey. "The first half we

struggled scoring the ball and gave up 30 points. We have to improve and we have to get better. It's a tough pill to swallow right now."

Samarco added three of his team-leading 23 points and Erik Marschall added two of his 10 points to give the Falcons a 57-56 advantage with 3:26 left in the game. Marschall's 10 points marked the second straight game he finished with double digits.

Demetric Bennett, after being fouled by Radivojevic, made a pair of free throws to give the Jaguars a 58-57 lead at the 2:48 mark. Samarco came right

See **HAMBLET** | Page 8



BRANDON HEISS | THE BG NEWS

IN TRAFFIC: Lionel Sullivan goes up strong last week against Furman.

ROCKETS 31 | FALCONS 21



BRANDON HEISS | THE BG NEWS

FALLING SHORT: Corey Partridge makes a catch in last week's loss to Toledo. Partridge finished with 14 catches, tied for most ever at BG.

Falcons run out of steam at the end of season, lose 31-21 at Toledo

By John Turner
Sports Editor

TOLEDO — For the first time in six seasons, the BGSU football team will head into the offseason with a losing record after the team concluded its season by losing 31-21 last Tuesday to rival Toledo.

The second half of the season was one the Falcons would rather forget. BG lost each of its final five games, leaving the team with a final record of 4-8 overall, 3-5 in the Mid-American Conference.

"My kids, they battled hard," said BG coach Gregg Brandon. "It's been a grind this season and I just don't think there's any

gas left in the tank right now."

The Falcons found themselves down 21 points in the first half and were never able to recover as the Rockets kept the chains and the clock moving late in the game. Toledo's Jalen Parmele rushed for 124 yards and a touchdown while the Rocket defense held the Falcons to just 76 yards on the ground.

Although the Falcons struggled rushing the ball, they found success in the air on the arm of Anthony Turner. After being pulled from the game in the second quarter in favor of freshman Tyler Sheehan, Turner returned strong for BG and completed 21 passes for 213 yards and three TDs.

"He has sputtered and been erratic, but in the second half he stepped up and made some nice throws," Brandon said.

Turner's primary target was Corey Partridge, who had a career game with 14 catches for 161 yards and a touchdown. His 14 receptions tied a single game school record set by Robert Redd in 2002 against Northern Illinois.

"They ran a lot of no deep man-to-man coverage, bringing blitzes," Partridge said. "It gave me a lot of time to just work one-on-one and when you only got one guy to beat and you know where you're going and

See **FOOTBALL** | Page 8

Poll says H of F not likely to call McGwire

By Ronald Blum and Ben Walker
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For one glorious summer, Mark McGwire was bigger than baseball itself. America stopped to watch each time he came to the plate, and cheered every time he sent a ball into orbit.

He could do no wrong, it seemed. Surely he would be a shoo-in for the Hall of Fame someday.

And then came that day on Capitol Hill. Over and over, the big slugger was asked about possible steroid use, and his reputation took hit after hit as he refused to answer, saying he wouldn't talk about his past.

Now, with Hall ballots in the mail, McGwire's path to baseball immortality may have hit a huge roadblock.

The Associated Press surveyed about 20 percent of eligible voters, and only one in four who gave an opinion plan to vote for McGwire this year. That's far short of the 75 percent necessary to gain induction.

In fact, that total would put McGwire, for all his 583 career home runs, closer to the 5 percent needed just to stay on future ballots.

"There is a clause on the ballot indicating that character should be considered and after his nonperformance at the congressional hearings his character certainly comes into play," said the Dayton Daily News' Hal McCoy.

"He doesn't want to talk about the past?" he said. "Then I don't want to consider his past."

McGwire, Cal Ripken Jr. and Tony Gwynn headline the ballot that was released Monday. Results will be announced in early January.

"Mark fits the criteria, just like everyone else," Hall chairman Jane Forbes Clark said. "We've been very pleased with the judgment exercised by the writers over the past 70 years of voting."

"The ballot says a player's record of achievement, contributions to the teams, the game, their character, longevity and sportsmanship should be considered. I think this year's balloting will be interesting," she

See **MCGWIRE** | Page 8

Achter scores 23, doesn't miss, in rout of Temple

By Colin Wilson
Assistant Sports Editor

To win games against good teams, the Falcons need good leadership. That was the difference in Friday night's game against Temple as point guard Kate Achter led BG to a 86-67 victory.

"Our floor general, Kate Achter, was incredible tonight. She had a picture-perfect game," said BG coach Curt Miller. "She was terrific in the way she ran the team; she got penetration that was needed for the offense to work, and we just fed off of her all night."

Achter played well in all facets of the game. Temple focused their defense on BG's post players and the hard-nosed guard made them pay. She shot a perfect 8-for-8 from the field on her way to 23 points. She also picked up four assists and two rebounds.

"We knew that if they were going to double Ali (Mann) and Liz (Honegger), I was going to have to slash to the basket or make a couple of outside jump shots, and I was able to do that tonight," Achter said.

Mann also scored 23 points and went the distance for BG, playing 40 minutes. She also

shot well from the field with an 8-of-10 performance.

Temple tried to make Achter take shots, but when she started hitting them they had to ease up on the double-team they had on Mann.

"For the most part, Kate has risen to those types of occasions in her career," Miller said. "When teams roll that kind of a game plan out against her, she usually comes up big, and again, she was terrific tonight."

Temple coach Dawn Staley also praised Achter for stepping up.

"You want to pick your poison, and make people play out of their roles. But, Kate made up for her role and somebody else's," Staley said. "She took over the basketball game, and when she has it going on like that, there's not much you can do."

Amber Flynn gave another good contribution off the bench with 12 points and four boards. She also hit the second and third 3-pointers of her career.

"It was great to see her step up, make some 3s and be a threat out there tonight,"

See **ACHTER** | Page 8



JORDAN FLOWER | THE BG NEWS

YOUNG TALENT: Freshman Todd McIlrath (above) has five points this year for the Falcons, who continue to struggle finding offense.

Falcons outscored 9-0 in ugly trip to New York

By Chayse Held
Reporter

The offensive struggles of the BGSU hockey team continued over the weekend as the Falcons lost two games against St. Lawrence and Clarkson by a combined score of 9-0.

BG struggled to finish quality scoring opportunities on their trip to New York, seeing its record drop to 3-10-1 overall. The Falcons have now lost six games in a row and 10 of their last 11.

"The guys worked extremely hard and created chances, but our inability to score goals is hurting us," said BG coach Scott Paluch. "There were times that I thought our power play

moved the puck really well and created chances. When you are struggling to score goals, the goals against can really magnify."

Against Clarkson (7-5-1) Friday, the Falcons fell behind early to the Golden Knights just 2:14 into the first period and could not recover, losing 5-0. BG out shot Clarkson 23-20, but failed to produce on its power play, going scoreless in eight opportunities.

Goalie Eddie Neville (1-5-1) saved 15 of the 20 Clarkson shots he faced.

On Saturday the story was much the same, as BG again was held scoreless, losing 4-

See **HOCKEY** | Page 8

Dantonio back at Michigan State, now as head coach

By Tim Martin
The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Mark Dantonio is back with the Michigan State football program. This time, he's in charge and he has much flashier jewelry.

Dantonio, an assistant with the program from 1995-00 and the Cincinnati head coach the past three seasons, was hired yesterday as the Spartans' coach. At his introduction, he displayed the 2002 championship ring he won as Ohio State's defensive coordinator.

"I wear this championship ring very, very few times, but I wear it for a reason," Dantonio said. "I wear it to symbolize what can happen when you have the resources, when you have the players, and most importantly when you have the commitment."

He succeeds John L. Smith, who was fired before completing his fourth season in East Lansing. He finished with a 22-26 record. Michigan State finished 4-8 this year and has missed out on a bowl trip three straight seasons for the first time since the early 1980s.

Dantonio becomes the ninth Michigan State coach since Duffy Daugherty left after the 1972 season. Michigan State is barely above .500 since and has won eight or more games in consecutive seasons just once, with one Rose Bowl appearance.

Dantonio inherits a team that has struggled on the field and in recruiting battles with nearby powerhouses Michigan, Ohio State and Notre Dame.

"If you have an opportunity to compete against the best, you can become the best," Dantonio said. "You have the opportunity

to measure up."

The Michigan State Board of Trustees yesterday unanimously approved president Lou Anna Simon's recommendation to hire Dantonio. The five-year contract guarantees him about \$1.1 million a year, on the lower end of the Big Ten pay scale. The contract also has a \$200,000 signing bonus and incentives.

The 50-year-old Dantonio had an 18-17 record at Cincinnati, including a win over previously unbeaten Rutgers this month. The Big East school is awaiting a bowl bid, but Dantonio wouldn't coach that game. Defensive

coordinator Pat Narduzzi was appointed Cincinnati's interim head coach yesterday.

Dantonio has a defensive coaching background and extensive recruiting experience in the Midwest, two trouble spots for the Spartans under Smith.

Dantonio spent six seasons as a Michigan State assistant under Nick Saban and Bobby Williams before becoming Ohio State's defensive coordinator under Jim Tressel.

Michigan State waited until

See **DANTONIO** | Page 9



BRANDON HEISS | THE BG NEWS

HIGH RISER: Martin Samarco goes up strong in a game last week against Furman. Samarco finished Saturday's game with 23 points, a game high.

HAMBLET

From Page 7

back and added a pair of free throws to give the lead back to Falcons, 59-58, with 2:36 left in the game.

Radivojevic hit a pair of free throws to give BG a 61-58 advantage. The Jaguars responded by making one of two free throws to bring the BG lead to two at 61-59. Matt Lefeld made a short jump hook to give BG a 63-59 lead with 54 seconds to go in the game. Lefeld finished with a season high 12 points off the bench.

The Jaguars came right back after Bennett drained a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 63-62. Samarco was fouled and missed the front end of a one-and-one and then later fouled Brandon Davis to put the Jaguars at the line.

Davis converted both free throws to give USA a one-point lead at 64-63 with nine seconds to go in the game.

The Falcons nearly lost the ball out of bounds with 4.7 seconds to go, which set up the play in which Hamblet drove to the right side of the lane and put the ball off the glass and in as time expired.

"That particular situation (down one with four seconds left) probably happened in practice the last four days 25 times," said BG coach Dan Dakich. "I'm not sure we scored on that twice in those situations. However, at the end of the week everyone was making good plays and sometimes that shot goes in."

With the win, the Falcons move to 2-2 while the loss dropped the Jaguars to 4-2. The Falcons are next in action Saturday when they host Troy University at 2 p.m.



BRANDON HEISS | THE BG NEWS

MAKE WAY: Despite being pulled late in the first half in favor of freshman Tyler Sheehan, Anthony Turner (above) returned to throw three touchdown passes.

FOOTBALL

From Page 7

he doesn't, it makes it pretty easy for you."

Kenneth Brantley, playing in his final game as a Falcon, caught his first career touchdown pass in the third quarter and a second touchdown in the fourth quarter.

In a season where 15 true freshmen saw playing time,

an imbalance of youth and experience plagued the team. Brandon and the Falcons hope to reverse their fortunes next season with a more experienced, but still youth-laden team.

But for now, the pain of losing the season's final game to Toledo is still stinging.

"You're going to come out and play as hard as you can every time, and it kills you not to win," Partridge said. "This one really hurts."

ACHTER

From Page 7

Achter said. "That really helped to open up their defense."

The Falcons played well on defense as well. Although Temple was able to shoot 49 percent, it only got to the foul line 14 times and made just five free throws. Lindsey Goldsberry came off the bench and had three steals in a span of three minutes. The steals helped fuel an 11-0 run that put BG ahead for good.

"Coming into the game, coach mentioned that they might need me to be a defensive stopper tonight," Goldsberry said. "When they put me in, I just tried to go out there, play hard and do what I've grown up doing."

BG has come out and shot well lately. It was the second game in a row the Falcons shot over 60 percent from the field.

The Falcons have now won three in a row and 19 straight at Anderson Arena. The home win streak is third best in the nation.

Tomorrow night BG will continue its non-conference schedule at 7 p.m. against visiting Oakland.

HOCKEY

From Page 7

0 to St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y. The Saints (7-4-0) scored a goal in the first, two in the second and another in the final period for the four-goal victory.

The Falcon power play went scoreless in nine chances, making them 0-17 for the weekend with the man-advantage.

Despite the loss, BG goalie Jimmy Spratt (2-5-0) stopped 40 of 44 St. Lawrence shots, bettering his previous career-high of 36 saves.

BG will look to get back into the win column this weekend as it returns home to face CCHA foe Nebraska-Omaha in a pair of games. The puck drops for both games at 7:05 p.m. at the BG Ice Arena.

MCGWIRE

From Page 7

said.

The AP contacted 125 of the approximately 575 present or former members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America who are eligible to cast ballots.

And the breakdown was:

- 74 will not vote for McGwire.
- 23 will vote for him.
- 16 are undecided.
- 5 refused to say.
- 5 aren't allowed to vote by their employers.

That means if all the undecided and those refusing to say voted for McGwire, and everyone else voted, McGwire would need 84 percent of the rest to get into the Hall.

Chaz Scoggins of The Sun in Lowell, Mass., was among McGwire's supporters.

"He wasn't breaking any baseball rules during his career," he said. "As for using performance-enhancing substances, the fact that so many pitchers have been detected using them kind of evens the playing field."

McGwire played in the majors from 1986-2001, the first 12 seasons with the Oakland Athletics and the rest with the St. Louis Cardinals.

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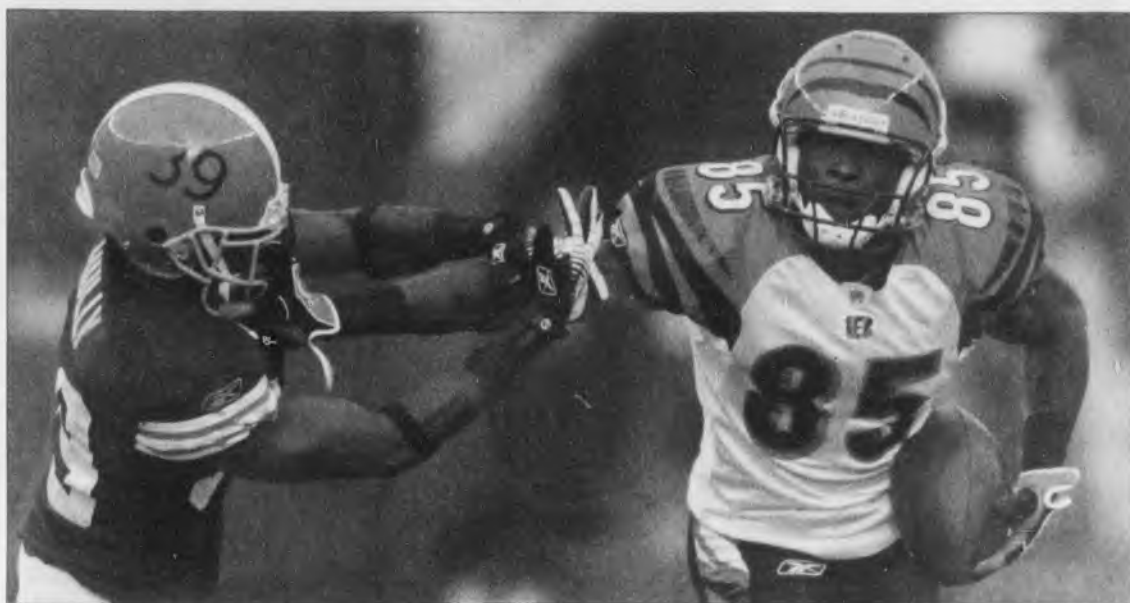
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BENGALS 30 | BROWNS 0



GET OUT OF THE WAY: Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Johnson (85) grabs the face mask of Cleveland Browns defensive back Daven Holly (39).

RON SCHWANE | AP PHOTO

THE BG NEWS SUDOKU

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South and North

Edwards regretful about Sunday's sideline tirade; Crennel says situation to be dealt with internally

By Tom Withers
The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Braylon Edwards walked into Cleveland's locker room nattily dressed in a dark, pinstriped sports coat instead of the usual sweats and sneakers he would normally wear the day after a game.

He looked and acted cool yesterday. On Sunday, he was anything but.

An embarrassed Edwards blamed "my passion for the game" for his showy sideline tantrum during the third quarter of Cleveland's 30-0 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals, a Terrell Owens-like display for the cocky second-year wide receiver.

Following an interception by Browns quarterback Charlie Frye, an enraged Edwards lost his composure after leaving the field. He exchanged words with Frye and even grabbed the QB's jersey as other teammates tried to settle him down as angrily stormed around.

Edwards, who didn't speak to the media following the game, never directly apologized for his actions but he clearly regretted what happened.

"I don't feel like I embarrassed my teammates," he said. "I embarrassed myself to some extent. That's not my character. That's not me. Nobody knows me as that type of guy. I've always been the clean cut, quiet, well-spoken guy, so that wasn't me. I embarrassed myself a little bit and I feel I embarrassed this organization to some extent."

"I wish I could do it back, but I

can't."

Browns coach Romeo Crennel said any discipline against Edwards would be handled internally. His options would be to suspend, fine or bench the former first-round pick. Or, Crennel may choose to do nothing.

"We are going to talk to Braylon and we are going to determine how we'll deal with it," Crennel said. "We are going to keep it in-house. It's family business and I'm not going to put it in the press."

Even before his rant on Sunday, Edwards was already on thin ice with Crennel. Last week, Edwards criticized Cleveland's conservative offensive play calling and then questioned teammate Brian Russell's hard hit on Bengals wide receiver Chad Johnson earlier this season.

Edwards insisted that Sunday's blowup had nothing to do with Frye, who threw four interceptions in the loss.

"The emotions that I showed was not related towards Charlie Frye at all," he said. "I grabbed his jersey in reference to something else but as Romeo says, we'll keep that in house. I wasn't mad about something Charlie did."

Edwards, who had just two receptions for 29 yards, doesn't believe he should be disciplined for his outburst.

"All I did was show I cared about the game," he said. "All I did was show my passion for the game. It's not like I fought anybody. It's not like I gave the bird to somebody in the stands or anything like that. I was just showing passion about the game."

Playoff hopes alive for Bengals after struggling defense finds new life in Cleveland

By Joe Kay
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Suddenly, the Cincinnati Bengals are back in the middle of the playoff chase, revived by one of the rarest of accomplishments.

The NFL's worst defense produced a shutout.

The Bengals pulled off their first shutout in 17 years on Sunday, a 30-0 victory in Cleveland — the last team they blanked — that left them with newfound confidence heading into their biggest game of the season.

Cincinnati (6-5) plays at home Thursday night against Baltimore (9-2), which can snatch away the AFC North championship with a win.

"For the defense, with a lot of guys playing in positions they're not used to playing, to get four turnovers and a big shutout is huge for us, for momentum and confidence, going into another big division game this week," quarterback Carson Palmer said.

Holding an opponent's offense to average numbers has been a noteworthy accomplishment for Cincinnati's defense, which ranked last in the league in yards allowed heading into the game in Cleveland.

The Bengals gave up 42 points in the second half of a 49-41 loss to San Diego, then nearly 600 yards in a 31-16 win in New Orleans. In those two games, the defense seemed to be starting another late-season

slide just as the offense finally found its stride.

Now, there's hope.

"We didn't do anything special," linebacker Landon Johnson said. "We just played as a team."

The defense hadn't done that lately. With players switching positions and reserves taking on bigger roles because of injuries, the defense repeatedly gave up big plays and failed to get a turnover in three consecutive games.

Lately, the defense has started to look more like the unit that led the league in forcing turnovers last season. Cincinnati has gotten nine turnovers in the last two games, including four interceptions of Cleveland quarterback Charlie Frye.

The Bengals scored touchdowns on their first two possessions Sunday, and the defense had its way against one of the league's sorriest offenses. Cleveland has scored the third-fewest points in the NFL.

"The big thing is our offense got on the board right away," said safety Kevin Kaesviharn, who had two interceptions. "Once you get a team in the hole, they can't run the plays that they were going to run, and you're able to keep them there."

By winning their last two games, the Bengals have given themselves an outside chance to win the AFC North for a second straight season, and a better chance to make the playoffs as a wild card.

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Outfielder David Dellucci inks three-year deal with Tribe

By Tom Withers
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Promised Cleveland's starting job in left field, free agent David Dellucci has reached preliminary agreement on an \$11.5 million, three-year contract with the Indians.

The 33-year-old Dellucci has a physical scheduled for Thursday in Cleveland, and he'll finalize his deal with the Indians if he passes it.

"The key factor there was his role," agent Joe Longo said. "They've given him the left fielder's job. He also felt he wanted to be in a lineup that had a chance to win. He wanted to come back to the American League. That was the best fit."

Dellucci batted .292 with 13 homers and 39 RBIs in 132 games for the Philadelphia

Phillies last season. Before that, he spent two seasons with Texas and has also played for the New York Yankees, Arizona and the Baltimore Orioles.

Dellucci hit 29 homers for the Rangers in 2005.

Longo said several teams were in the hunt for Dellucci, a left-handed hitter who has a .263 career average.

"He had a lot of interest," Longo said. "We probably had serious interest from 12 teams. He wanted a three-year guarantee. That was the main thing, the every day job. He really wanted to play every day on a contender."

Dellucci's deal would pay him \$3.75 million next season, \$3.75 million in 2008 and \$4 million in 2009.

His decision to sign with the Indians was first reported by FOXSports.com.

DANTONIO

From Page 8

Cincinnati finished its regular season to interview Dantonio. That happened Saturday night with a contingent including basketball coach Tom Izzo. Simon followed up with a Sunday morning meeting, and they had a contract by Sunday night.

Dantonio received a warm welcome at Michigan State's athletics offices, where many of the same people he knew from his stay in the late 1990s still work.

"I think they did a great job of picking a great guy," linebacker Kaleb Thornhill said.

Other possible candidates included Miami Dolphins assistant Charlie Baggett, Cleveland Browns defensive coordinator

Todd Grantham, LSU defensive coordinator Bo Pelini, Central Michigan coach Brian Kelly and Philadelphia Eagles assistant Pat Shurmur.

Dantonio is from Ohio and has spent much of his coaching career in the Midwest. Smith came from Louisville and previously coached mostly as schools in the western half of the country.

"He is a person who understands the landscape," Michigan State trustee Joel Ferguson said.

Dantonio became the first coach at Cincinnati to have a winning record in his first season. He had seven wins, including a victory over Marshall in the Fort Worth Bowl. After taking a step back with a 4-7 record in 2005 with an inexperienced team, Dantonio led Cincinnati to another solid season this year.

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NATION
BRIEFS

BG NEWS WIRE SOURCES

Supreme Court stays out
of school choice debate

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court decided yesterday not to plunge into the issue of school choice, passing up a dispute over a Maine law that bars the use of public funds to send students to private religious schools.

A conservative group, the Institute for Justice, had asked the justices to take the case. The group is representing eight Maine families who would receive public tuition funds but for the fact that their children attend religious schools.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and President Bush's homestate of Texas had weighed in, saying in filings to the Supreme Court that Maine is unconstitutionally discriminating against religion.

Vouchers are championed by the president and many conservatives who call them a ticket out of dismal and dangerous public schools. However, those who champion public education say that vouchers divert already-scarce resources from a system badly in need of repair.

NBC will now call Iraq
conflict a civil war

NEW YORK — NBC News yesterday began referring to the Iraq conflict as a civil war, adopting a phrase that President Bush and many other news organizations have avoided.

Matt Lauer said on the "Today" show that "after careful consideration, NBC News has decided that a change in terminology is warranted, that the situation in Iraq with armed militant factions fighting for their own political agendas can now be characterized as civil war."

There are different criteria for defining a civil war. Webster's New World College Dictionary defines it simply as "war between geographical sections or political factions of the same nation."

Some political scientists use a threshold of 1,000 dead, which the current conflict has long since passed.

The Web site GlobalSecurity.org, which provides information on defense issues, said five criteria must be met: The contestants must control territory, have a functioning government, enjoy some foreign recognition, have identifiable regular armed forces and engage in major military operations.

FIRE

From Page 5

"This is a very tragic situation that has saddened all of us at Joplin River of Life Ministries," he said.

At the company's offices in Joplin, investigators interviewed Dupont and group home residents, including some survivors. A ministries employee said Dupont was unavailable for further comment.

Three people were in serious condition at hospitals in Joplin and Springdale, Ark. All the other survivors who went to area hospitals were either in good or fair condition, or had been treated and released.

Authorities were trying to determine whether the blaze was linked to a smaller fire at the facility Saturday morning, said Assistant Fire Marshal Greg Carrell.

No one was injured in the first fire, which was still under investigation when the second blaze began.

SHOOTING

From Page 5

As he walked toward the front of the vehicle, the car drove forward, striking the officer and minivan, Kelly said.

That officer was apparently the first to open fire, Kelly said. He had served on the force for five years. One 12-year veteran fired his weapon 31 times, emptying two full magazines, Kelly said.

It was the first time any of the officers, all of whom carried 9 mm handguns, had been involved in a shooting, he said.

At some point, Bell backed the car onto a sidewalk, hitting a building gate, police said. He then drove forward, striking the police vehicle a second time, Kelly said.

The department's policy prohibits shooting at moving vehicles states "unless deadly force is being used against the police officers or another person present, by means other than a moving vehicle."

Red Cross fined over
questionable tactics

"We will review the letter, which we are doing now, and if we have any questions or issues that we want to resolve, we will get back with the FDA."

Ryland Dodge | American Red Cross Spokesman

By Andrew Bridges
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal government has fined the American Red Cross \$5.7 million for violating blood-safety laws and the terms of a 2003 consent decree.

The fine covers quality assurance, inventory management, control of non-conforming blood products, donor screening and blood component manufacturing issues turned up during a 2005 inspection of a Red Cross facility in West Henrietta, N.Y., the Food and Drug Administration said in a Nov. 21 letter.

The letter, to Red Cross interim president and CEO Jack McGuire, was posted yesterday on the FDA Web site.

The fine appears to be the largest single penalty ever assessed under terms of a 2003 court settlement that allows the large fines when the Red Cross violates FDA rules. Previously, the FDA had fined the Red Cross a total of nearly \$10 million.

"We will review the letter, which we are doing now, and if we have any questions or issues that we want to resolve, we will get back with the FDA," American Red Cross spokesman Ryland Dodge said.

Messages left with two FDA

representatives were not immediately returned.

The fine stems from the FDA's inspection of the Red Cross New York-Penn. Region's blood services facility. FDA inspectors, over 29 days, turned up 207 deviations from a 2004 plan devised to detect, investigate, monitor and correct problems. The inspection was the first comprehensive evaluation of how the Red Cross implemented the plan, the FDA said.

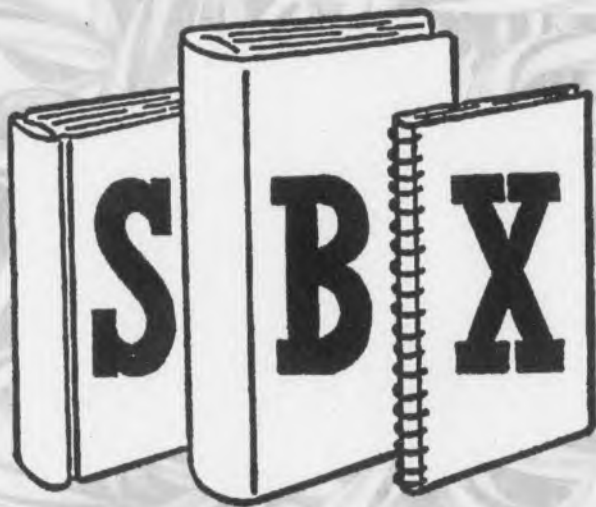
The Red Cross board of governors has asked for an independent and comprehensive assessment of how it complies with FDA regulatory requirements.

The ultimate size of the fine could grow if the FDA deems a required compliance plan inadequate, the agency said.

The Red Cross said it does not use donated money to pay fines, but instead relies on operating funds, it said. Those include revenue from the sales of blood products.

The 2003 consent decree settled charges that the Red Cross had committed "persistent and serious violations" of federal blood safety rules dating back 17 years.

The Red Cross provides more than 40 percent of the nation's blood supply, selling blood products to health facilities.



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COURT

From Page 5

in which the disparity grew over time, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said.

Early on, "there is no reason to think there is going to be this inequality," she argued.

But Chief Justice John Roberts was skeptical that employees should be allowed to challenge decisions made years ago. "It could be 40 years, right, that there was a discriminatory act, in one of the semiannual pay reviews I was denied...a raise that I should have gotten," Roberts said.

Only Justice Clarence Thomas, who rarely speaks up during court sessions, did not participate in the questioning. But he could play a pivotal role in deciding the case.

In the 1980s, Thomas was chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which is responsible for investigating workplace discrimination claims.

One of the court's most conservative justices, Thomas was joined by his four liberal colleagues in a 5-4 decision in 2002 that made it easier for victims to complain about long-term job discrimination or harassment when shabby treatment is extended over a period of months or years.

In Ledbetter's case, the EEOC said her claims could go forward. She was initially awarded more

than \$3.8 million. A judge reduced the award to \$360,000.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the verdict. The appeals court said Ledbetter mainly was complaining about decisions made by her supervisors long ago, well after the deadline for raising allegations of discrimination.

Supporting Ledbetter, the NAACP, AARP and other rights groups said employers would not suffer any consequences for recurring discrimination if they could rebuff allegations merely by arguing the deadline for complaining about the first episode passed.

Goodyear denied discriminating against Ledbetter. She received periodic raises despite being ranked near the bottom of her group of workers, the company said.

"Title VII requires allegedly aggrieved employees like Ledbetter to assert their intentional discrimination claims within the 180-day charge-filing period or lose them," the company told the court.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Business said that if the court rules for the worker in this case, employers would be subject to damages for innocent decisions made years ago that would be difficult to defend because of the passage of time.

A ruling is expected before July.

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WORLD BRIEFS

BG NEWS WIRE SOURCES

11 charged for illegal payments to Saddam

CANBERRA, Australia — An inquiry into multimillion-dollar kickbacks to former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein paid by Australia's monopoly wheat exporter yesterday recommended criminal charges against 11 company officials but found no illegal activity by the government.

In his report, former judge Terence Cole said, "I found no material that is any way suggestive of illegal activity by the Commonwealth or any of its officers."

Prime Minister John Howard ordered the inquiry last year after an investigation by former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker exposed the wheat exporter as the largest source of suspect payments under the oil-for-food program. From 1999-2003, executives authorized \$222 million in bogus transport fees to a Jordanian trucking company part-owned by Saddam's government, Volcker found.

Payments to Saddam were illegal under U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Howard, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer and former Trade Minister Mark Vaile were called to testify before the government inquiry in April.

All denied having any knowledge the wheat exporter was breaking the U.N. sanctions.

Leftist likely winner in presidential race

QUITO, Ecuador — A leftist economist who called for Ecuador to cut ties with international lenders appeared to have easily won the presidency of this poor, politically unstable Andean nation, strengthening South America's tilt to the left.

Partial returns from Sunday's voting showed that Rafael Correa — who has worried Washington with calls to limit foreign debt payments — would join left-leaning leaders in Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Venezuela, where he is friends with anti-U.S. President Hugo Chavez.

The returns showed Correa with as many as twice the votes recorded as for his banana tycoon rival, who claimed the polls were rigged.

Correa was a fresh face in a field of established politicians, and won a place in Sunday's runoff by pledging a "citizens' revolution" against Ecuador's discredited political system.



NABIL AL JURANI | AP PHOTO

HELP WANTED: A British soldier stands next to a vehicle carrying a banner calling on Iraqis to make money by providing security forces with information on individuals who fire mortars and rockets southeast of Baghdad, Iraq.

Bush makes step toward removing troops in Iraq

"We are in dire need of Iran's help in establishing security and stability in Iraq."

Jalal Talabani | Iraqi President

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — President Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki will discuss a speedier hand-over of security control to Iraqi forces as a prelude to the start of a U.S. withdrawal when they meet in Jordan this week, top Iraqi government officials said yesterday.

As al-Maliki prepared to meet Bush, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani sought yesterday to enlist Iran's help in quelling the escalating violence that threatens to tear apart the country. "We are in dire need of Iran's help in establishing security and stability in Iraq," Iran's state-run television quoted Talabani as saying after he met with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Tehran.

The increased pace of diplomacy comes as a bipartisan U.S. panel headed by former Secretary of State James A. Baker III and former Rep. Lee Hamilton is expected to put forth recommendations soon to the White House on alterations to Iraq policy. Seeking help from Iran and Syria was believed to be among the Iraq Study Group's proposal.

Looking ahead to the summit in Amman, Jordan, the Iraqi side viewed the talks as the most important between leaders of the two countries since the ouster of Saddam Hussein, according to the two top officials with intimate knowledge of planning for the Wednesday-Thursday meeting. Iraqi officials believe the summit will deal with giving Iraqi forces more control over security. The Iraqis expect President Bush to agree to such an arrangement, and they say al-Maliki will then ask for the Americans to start discussing a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops, according to one of the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the information.

The second official, who spoke anonymously for the same reason, said American officials had indicated in preparatory talks in Baghdad that Bush was open to increasing the pace of the security hand-over.

"The responsibilities of U.S. troops will decrease when security is transferred to Iraqis, and that will mean the Americans have more soldiers here than they need," the second official said.

Also on the Iraqi agenda, the officials said, would be al-Maliki's insistence that the United States pressure its Sunni Arab allies in the region to stop what Baghdad claims is support for the Iraqi insurgency. Lastly, al-Maliki wants to get an outline of the U.S. view of the strategic relationship that would exist as the Americans draw down their presence in the country, the officials said.

As the summit approached, Britain said yesterday it expected

See IRAQ | Page 12

Peace a possibility if Palestine cooperates

By Amy Teibel
The Associated Press

Ehud Olmert

Has offered a deal to promote peace with Palestine

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert reached out to the Palestinians yesterday in one of his most conciliatory speeches yet, saying he was prepared to grant them a state, release desperately needed funds and free prisoners if they choose the path of peace.

Olmert's remarks sealed a dramatic policy shift and built on a day-old truce meant to end five months of violence in the Gaza Strip, but new rocket attacks by Palestinian militants threatened the latest rapprochement.

"I hold out my hand in peace to our Palestinian neighbors in the hope that it won't be returned empty," Olmert said.

"We cannot change the past and we will not be able to bring

back the victims on both sides of the borders," he said. "All that we can do today is stop additional tragedies."

Olmert appealed to the Palestinians to form a new, moderate Cabinet committed to carrying out a U.S.-backed peace plan and securing the release of a captured Israeli soldier.

Once such a government was established, Olmert said, he would call for an immediate meeting with the moderate Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, "to have a real, open, honest, serious dialogue between us."

Some upset about Pope visiting Muslim community

By Benjamin Harvey
The Associated Press

Pope Benedict XVI

Will to arrive in Istanbul despite controversy

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is to meet Pope Benedict XVI today, a change of plans that appears to signal openness to a visit that has angered many Turks.

Small protests broke out in the cities of Ankara and Istanbul yesterday, but authorities said security measures for the pope — who angered Muslims worldwide with comments in September on Islam and violence — will be tighter than they were for President Bush's visit in 2004.

Benedict, on his first papal visit to a predominantly Muslim country, was to arrive at the Ankara airport today around noon, where he will meet briefly with Erdogan, who waited until the day before the pope's arrival to announce that he would make time to see the pope.

News reports say some 3,000 police officers have been assigned to guard the pope upon his arrival in the dusty, sprawling capital of Ankara. Snipers will watch from hillsides and tall buildings, and armored vehicles and riot police will be stationed near the areas he is scheduled to visit.

Police also were staking out spots in Istanbul, where Benedict will spend most of his four days in Turkey.

"We have taken all the necessary measures and observations of the route the pope (will travel) and the places the pope will visit," Istanbul police spokesman Ismail Caliskan said.

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IRAQ

From Page 11

ed to withdraw thousands of its 7,000 military personnel from Iraq by the end of next year, and Poland and Italy announced the impending pullout of their remaining troops.

The Iraqi officials said they expected al-Maliki would brief Bush on the outcome of Talabani's meetings with Ahmadinejad.

Al-Maliki also was expected to explain his thoughts on how Syria, Iraq's western neighbor, could play a role in calming violence. Al-Maliki lived in exile in Syria during Saddam's rule.

As Iraqi officials reached out to both Iran and the U.S., speculation rose that Mideast peace might also be on Bush's agenda. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert yesterday delivered one of his most conciliatory speeches yet, and Palestinian legislator Saeb Erekat said it was possible that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas would meet with Bush in Jordan, whose king faces new vulnerability because of violence in Gaza and floods of Iraqi refugees.

Jordan's King Abdullah said Sunday the problems in the Middle East go beyond the war in Iraq and that much of the region soon could become engulfed in violence unless the central issues are addressed quickly.

"We could possibly imagine going into 2007 and having three civil wars on our hands," he said.

Investigation begins in poisoning of spy

By Paisley Dodds
The Associated Press



Alexander Litvinenko

Came in contact with a radioactive substance

LONDON — Three people are being referred to a special clinic for radiological tests after a former Russian spy was poisoned by a rare radioactive substance, health officials said yesterday.

Of 18 people who said they came into contact with Alexander Litvinenko or three sites where traces of radiation were detected, three showed symptoms serious enough that the Health Protection Agency thought they should be reviewed as a precaution, said HPA spokeswoman Katherine Lewis.

She would not elaborate on their symptoms and refused to give the location of the clinic.

A local government official, meanwhile, said Britain will open a formal inquest this week into Litvinenko's death.

Litvinenko, 43, a former KGB agent turned critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, died Thursday of heart failure after falling gravely ill from what doctors said was poisoning by the radioactive element polonium-210. He had been granted British asylum in 2000.

Although an autopsy has not started yet because of concerns over radiation, the inquest could begin as early as Thursday, according to Matt Cornish, a spokesman for the Camden Council. The local government body oversees the North London Coroner's Court.

Such coroner's inquests in Britain are meant to determine the cause of death but they can

sometimes cast blame.

Last month, a coroner investigating the death of British television journalist Terry Lloyd — shot by U.S. troops in Iraq in March 2003 — criticized U.S. authorities for failing to name Marines involved in the incident. Another inquest ruled that a second British cameraman was murdered by an Israeli soldier in Gaza.

British officials have avoided blaming Moscow for the death of Litvinenko but continued emergency talks yesterday over the spy's death — an issue that could overshadow tough negotiations over energy issues and Russia's cooperation on the international standoff over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

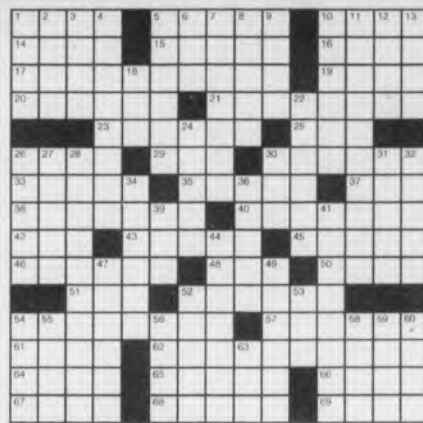
In the strongest comments leveled at Moscow since the ex-spy's death, Cabinet minister Peter Hain on Sunday accused Putin of presiding over "huge attacks on individual liberty and on democracy" and acknowledged that relations between London and Moscow were at a difficult stage.

Hain, the government's Northern Ireland secretary, said Putin's tenure had been clouded by incidents "including an extremely murky murder of the senior Russian journalist" Anna Politkovskaya, another critic of Putin's government. Litvinenko had been investigating her murder.

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ACROSS

- 1 Cell body
- 5 Carolina rails
- 10 Island east of Java
- 14 Leave out
- 15 Dizzying pictures
- 16 Regrets
- 17 Old man with a scythe
- 19 Swenson of "Benson"
- 20 Half a buck's rack
- 21 Flemish map-maker
- 23 Fled to wed
- 25 Tropical American cuckoo
- 26 Stubby, erect tail
- 29 Ashen
- 30 Set a tax
- 33 Chairmaker
- 35 Puts away
- 37 — culpa
- 38 Inverse math function
- 40 Whole
- 42 Russian chess great
- 43 Winter coat

- 45 Finalists' determiners
- 46 "A Streetcar Named Desire" character
- 48 Vigor
- 50 Funny Jay
- 51 Fish eggs
- 52 Wine container
- 54 Bedroom items
- 57 Long stole
- 61 Goals
- 62 Bonanza
- 64 Ventilation duct
- 65 Marriage
- 66 Toward shelter
- 67 Hardy girl
- 68 Religious groups
- 69 Desires

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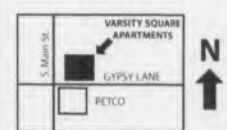
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5:20 7:15 7:45 9:40 10:10

A GOOD YEAR (PG-13) 12:50

STRANGER THAN FICTION (PG-13) 12:40

3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

BORAT (R) 1:15 3:20 5:25 7:20 9:35

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